Pam-China-Land.
China Continuation Committee

CHINA'S MODERN GOLIATH

1. Non-Christian Illiterates
   324,000,000
2. Christian Literates
   125,000
3. Christian
   Illiterates
   188,000
4. Non-Christian
   Literates
   36,000,000

1 2 3 4

AND HER DAVID

"David said, 'Let no man's heart fail because of him.'"
"So David prevailed over the Philistine."

China's Problem—95,000,000 Untaught Children

There are not less than 99,000,000 children in China of school age. Only 4,218,695 of these are in school. 125,513 are in Christian schools. For every boy in a Christian school there are thirty-five in Government or private schools and 410 not in school at all. For every girl in a Christian school there are three in Government schools and 900 not in school.

PROMOTION OF PHONETIC SCRIPT

A Plea for United and Immediate Action

A New Weapon

The introduction of Phonetic Script into China provides a weapon for attacking her National Giant, Illiteracy. This weapon may be used for good or for evil, perhaps it would be more correct to say it surely will be used for both. One who is using this new script with splendid results in school and church and in forward evangelistic work says: "Disseminate knowledge widely this script surely will. What that knowledge is to be depends upon you and me." If the Church of God can be aroused to immediate and united action this new weapon may be used for truth and righteousness and the knowledge of God's word be given to the masses with a clearness and fullness impossible before. It surely is of tremendous importance that this should be done before this script is used as a channel for mischievous and degrading literature.

Recent events in Russia may well make us ponder on the future of the 320,000,000 illiterates in China. Their awakening will surely affect the world at large, whether for good or for evil. Our action now will largely decide what that awakening will be and what it will mean to the world.

The Problem and the Possibilities

The data for the charts* presented here has been prepared by experts. They are worth more than a passing glance and the problem behind them surely calls for earnest prayer, thoughtful planning, and determined effort. Granted united action now on the part of all Christian schools and churches in the Mandarin-speaking area and who can measure the possible results? We have a "God who only doeth wondrous things," "marvelous things, and that without number," and who has promised to do "great and mighty things" for those who "call" upon Him. Shall we not unitedly and earnestly call upon Him to make the introduction of Phonetic Script into China the turning point in the history of this great country? A correspondent in North China writes: "Having had ample opportunity of testing the Chu Yin system upon complete illiterates we are convinced that it is a practical solution of the problem of illiteracy of the people, and should make the Bible a familiar book to every church member. We

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*The figures of the chart on the front cover are proportionate in *area* (not in *height*) to the actual number of literates and illiterates. The chart opposite this page seeks to produce a similar effect in perspective, but is not drawn to scale.

have no hesitation in recommending missionaries to go forward fearlessly. *They will be surprised to see how difficulties vanish and what ready mastery of script will be gained by a moderately intelligent illiterate in a comparatively short time and in spite of local dialects.*

In Shansi

"In the province of Shansi, Governor Yen is keenly pushing it. The streets in many of the cities are placarded with numerous announcements in script exhorting the people. By the side of the large script is printed small Chinese characters. Schools are opened for its propagation in Taiyuanfu, and there is no doubt that the thing has come to stay.

The Church's Opportunity

"At the present moment the Church has within its reach an unparalleled opportunity for evangelistic work, and for bringing under instruction many of those with whom intercourse might otherwise be difficult. We are persuaded that this movement must be made to spread rapidly, or our opportunity of using it as an evangelistic agency will be gone."

Most Recent Progress

Since the above was written news has come that Governor Yen has ordered 2,500,000 copies of a phonetic primer. Two million of these are being printed in Shanghai and 500,000 in Shansi.

In Chengtu, Szechwan, the University faculty have approved the teaching of the script as a required study next fall to all university students, and students in the middle school, normal school, and Bible school connected with the University. The system is to be taught during the month of July in the summer normal school there. There are one hundred expected pupils. The Methodist Episcopal girls' school, comprising middle and primary grades, is also desirous of having the script taught to all pupils.

Successful classes for teaching of script have been held in several centers in Szechwan. Our correspondent writes: "One difficulty is that we have no financial backing. If the committee could see the call to assist this center, . . . there is scarcely a limit to what might be done. . . . What we need is books for those who have studied, so that they might keep what they have learned and make further progress."

Similar appeals have been made to the committee from other provinces. Not having funds available, the committee has in each case had to refuse to help.

"A need known and power to meet that need constitute a call." The need of China's illiterates is known to all, and the power to meet that need is now in the hands of the Christian Church. What will be her response to this call?

"Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it."

A League of Service

Feeling the urgency of this matter and the wondrous possibilities before this movement, if only earnest prayer and united action can be secured, the following plan has been outlined for a *league of service* which may bind together old and young with the definite purpose of attacking and conquering the Giant, Illiteracy.

Purpose of the League To teach illiterates to read the word of God in the National Script.

Motto: "TRUTH SHALL DELIVER"

Pledge: "I am debtor . . to the unwise. So as much as in me is I am willing to preach the Gospel."

Badge:

Rewards: Those who teach five illiterates will receive a stripe of violet ribbon, to be attached to the badge. For the next five a stripe of indigo ribbon, and so on until all the rainbow colors have been won. When forty pupils have been taught, the colors will be replaced by a white ribbon and the owner can add the colors afresh.

For schools and churches rainbow banners may be won on the same plan, the first stripe being for fifty illiterates taught. And why should not missions compete for banners also, with a stripe for every five hundred taught? An endless chain of achievement might be recorded in this way with an ever increasing incentive to fresh endeavors.

Some Suggestions and Questions

If every literate Christian would teach two illiterate Christians to read, *the problem of illiteracy in the Church could be conquered this year.*

How many churches will definitely plan to do this?

Which church will be the first to accomplish it?

The following are the words of a Christian who has himself known the script but a few months: "When first I saw it I felt I should never master the script, but to my own surprise I found myself reading with ease after a few lessons from the missionary.

The River

Dams for conserving the flood waters which for years had run to waste, irrigation channels and pumping plants for bringing the water to what had been burning desert sands. These in recent years have more than trebled Egypt's harvests.

How can we multiply channels for carrying the Living Water of God's word to those who have it not?

"Everything Shall Live Whither the River Cometh"

Before I was fluent, I was asked to teach it; I trembled, but prayed and went forward. After having taught it to over forty men I cannot express my gratitude for having been enlisted in such a cause, for from this number we have reason to believe that not a few have entered the kingdom of God."

What might not be accomplished if every Christian would "tremble and pray and go forward" in this fashion.

In more than one place girls in Christian schools have pledged themselves to try to teach ten illiterates this year. In one school the girls are preparing from fifty to one hundred hymns in script for use in classes for illiterate women.

What will the boys do?

Ninety-five million children of school age not in schools. More than 300,000,000 illiterates of all ages. Truly gross darkness covers the people and desert sands wait for the water channel. "*Prayer Changes Things.*" Are we going to see these things changed or rest content without the changes taking place? Shall we not rather pray and labor for the fulfillment of Isaiah's vision:

"The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing. . . . Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. . . . Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the briar shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

"So long as we are afraid of the things that seem impossible so long God does not get His chance to prove that He can and will carry us through."

"With God nothing shall be impossible."

This appeal is issued by the Committee for the Promotion of Phonetic Script. For further information write to the

China Continuation Committee,
5 Quinsan Gardens, Shanghai.

For further copies of this Appeal in English, in Wên-li, or in Mandarin, or for Phonetic Script Literature write to

Literature Department, Stewart Evangelistic Fund,
18 Peking Road, Shanghai.

The Gospels of Mark and John in Phonetic can be ordered from

The British & Foreign Bible Society,
17 Peking Road, Shanghai.

China's Need—LIGHT

暗幽處困兆億

PREPARED BY CHINA CONTINUATION COMMITTEE

"GOD HATH SHINED IN OUR HEARTS TO GIVE THE LIGHT"

"FREELY YE HAVE RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE"